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INFORMATION REPORT

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Communist Activities in El Salvador

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SUPPLEMENT TO

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Jacinto Castellanos Rivas, a Salvadoran, has returned to Salvador, following a lengthy period of residence in Cexico. Prior to his departure from Salvador in 1944, he had been involved in political activity and displayed marked leftist tendencies as an associate of Pedro Geoffroy Rivas, an active Communist and director of the newspaper La Tribuna. Geoffroy was subsequently exiled to Guatemala in July 1945, and since that period has spent time in

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- According to information received Castellanos was registered for the 1945 term at the Workers' University of Mexico. This university was inaugurated in 1936 and was described as "a tool or vehicle which is used by Vicente Lotbardo Toledano as a convenient source of funds through government subsidies and a front for his various activities." In July 1947, Castellanos was listed as a subscriber to Espana Popular, the official paper of the Spanish Communist Party in Mexico.
- 3. Since his return to Salvador, Castellanos has found e ployment with the Tribuna Libre, and an article which appeared in that newspaper, with his byline was distinctly anti-American and pointedly critical of United States' business gractices. Two members of the Comurist Party of El Salvador, Gilberto Lara and Victor '. Guirola, have identified Castellanos as a likely cardidate for an important position in the local Communist Party, but as yet neither Castellanos nor the Party has been disposed to make the opening move. Both Lara and Guirola say that they have information that Castellanos was a nember of the Party in Mexico and that he contributed considerable effort to Party matters in that country.

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CENTRAL INT LLIGENCE AGENCY

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Recently invitations were issued to a cross-section of Salvadoran political, professional, labor, and intellectual figures to attend a meeting of a Pro-Feace Congress sponsored by the Conite de Reorganizacion Obrera Sindical (CROS). The first indication of Castellanos' activity in Communist affairs since his return from Mexico was brought to light in connection with this scheduled meeting by the fact that his name was used on the invitations as a supporter of the meeting. However, despite issuance of the invitations, the meeting was abruptly cancelled by CROS leaders when they became convinced that there was a good possibility that the government would use this open display of Communist activity as an excuse for wholesale arrests and liquidation of leftists in El Salvador. Flans for the Congress have not been completely abandoned, and when the atmosphere appears more propitious they hope to proceed with their original project.